



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Human Relations Committee**

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

11:40 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

NOTICE AND AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony.

16-2621

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 12/15/2015

16-2333

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CALLING UPON THE CITY OF CHICAGO TO RESCIND THE \$0.05 BOTTLED WATER TAX

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the water supply crisis in Flint, Michigan, an increasing level of public concern is being expressed in communities throughout Chicago and Cook County about the age of the water-related

infrastructure and the content of the water supply in Chicago and Cook County, including whether or not there are quantities of lead present in that water supply; and,

WHEREAS, much like the water delivery infrastructure in Flint, Michigan, the water delivery infrastructure in many parts of the City of Chicago and Cook County is rapidly aging and composed primarily of lead pipe; and,

WHEREAS, there exist clear and numerous pieces of scientific evidence demonstrating that exposure to lead causes significant neurological and developmental damage to babies, toddlers and children, and that the effects of that damage include higher rates of developmental delay, learning disabilities, and hearing loss; and,

WHEREAS, there exist clear and numerous pieces of scientific evidence demonstrating that lead exposure in adults can lead to mood disorders, decline in mental functioning, miscarriage and infertility, as well as an increased risk of cancer; and,

WHEREAS, recent analysis indicates that while the lead pipes that supply water to most of the City of Chicago and Cook County generally pose only a slight health risk, recent construction projects which disturb the water lines around the County have caused the risk to increase; and,

WHEREAS, many informed residents of the City of Chicago and Cook County, in the light of the aforementioned risks, choose to drink bottled water rather than tap water; and,

WHEREAS, many Chicago and Cook County residents with low and moderate household incomes rely upon bottled water as their cleanest source of drinking water, as an installation of a water filtration system in their homes is cost-prohibitive; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago should recognize the reality that large numbers of its citizens rely on bottled water, and must purchase that bottled water commercially; and,

WHEREAS, the existing five-cent per bottle tax on bottled water imposed by the City of Chicago is regressive, in that it disproportionately impacts citizens of Cook County and Chicago with the least disposable income; and,

WHEREAS, rescinding the five-cent per bottle tax will make bottled water more affordable to lower income residents who rely on bottled water for purposes of ensuring a clean drinking water source for their families; and,

WHEREAS, it is right and proper for the Cook County Board of Commissioners to opine and advocate on matters that affect the health and welfare of the citizens of Cook County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby call upon the City of Chicago to rescind the five-cent bottled water tax, to ensure that the citizens of the City of Chicago and Cook County have a more affordable source of clean, healthy drinking water.

Legislative History: 3/23/16 Board of Commissioners referred to the Human Relations Committee


Secretary

Chairman:	Boykin
Vice-Chairman:	Silvestri
Members:	Arroyo Jr., Fritchey, Sims, Steele, Suffredin